

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Michael P. Whitman, et al. EXAMINER: Gloria R. Weeks  
SERIAL NO.: 10/785,672 GROUP: 3721  
FILED: February 23, 2004 DATED: January 14, 2011  
TITLE: **SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING DEVICE**

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Confirmation No.: 2683

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to a non-Final Office Action mailed November 9, 2010, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended herein, prior to a further examination thereof.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

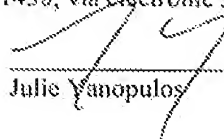
Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted on the date below with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, via electronic submission.

Dated: January 14, 2011

  
Julie Yanopoulos